



Investing in Partnership, Possibility, and People

*A Report to Stakeholders from the
U.S. EPA Brownfields Program*





Prepared by:

SRA International, Inc.
(Contract No. 68-W-01-048)
2801 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22201

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment
Washington, DC 20460

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Cover Photos:

Top: Roberto Clemente Park
Lancaster, PA

Bottom: Reno Events Center
Reno, NV

Photos: Belmar/Villa Italia Mall
Lakewood, CO

Overview



Accomplishments to Date

- 7,248 Properties Assessed—881 Assessment Grants
- 80 Loans Totaling \$37.2 Million—202 Revolving Loan Fund Grants
- 2,627 People Trained, Two Out of Three Employed—93 Job Training Grants
- 256 Cleanup Grants

In early 2002, the enactment of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, commonly referred to as the Brownfields Law, marked the beginning of a new era for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program. The law provided EPA with expanded authority and funding to help communities clean up and reuse the hundreds of thousands of brownfields blighting their neighborhoods and hosting unknown health and environmental risks. EPA swiftly implemented these new provisions, providing the benefits contained in the law directly to brownfields stakeholders across the country.

EPA's Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Specifically, EPA has established assessment

and cleanup grant programs, clarified liability, and provided assistance to state and tribal voluntary response programs. These efforts to fund projects, provide technical assistance, and facilitate partnerships have led to proven, real-world outcomes and tangible results.

Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfields increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressure off undeveloped land, and both improves and protects the environment. This supports the dual objectives of protecting human health and the environment by identifying and removing harmful contaminants and then returning properties to beneficial uses, such as parks, new homes, offices, and commercial areas, or any combination thereof. Reusing brownfields is a nationwide issue, the economic benefits of which impacts large cities and small towns alike.

This report offers insight into how a community-based, environmental grant program has flourished and expanded to offer assistance at more than 7,000 properties nationwide, while leveraging more than \$7.2 billion in revitalization funds from the public and private sectors. The collaboration between EPA's Brownfields Program and hundreds of federal, state, and local entities across the country; the enhancements to the program by the Brownfields Law; and the future opportunities for growth are described in the following chapters:

- ***Fulfilling the Mandate***—focuses on the implementation and successes of the Brownfields Law
- ***Partners in Progress***—describes how partners shape the EPA Brownfields Program
- ***Measures of Success***—demonstrates programmatic success and its impact on communities
- ***Moving Forward***—looks into the future of the EPA Brownfields Program



“The term ‘brownfield site’ means real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”

—Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, 42 USC 9601 (39), enacted January 2002

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Photos: Former Holly Street Landfill
Bellingham, WA

Overview